



THE GULL

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CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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DEC - 3 1990

Golden Gate Audubon Society

Berkeley, California

Volume 72

Number 11

December 1990

THE BIG DECEMBER EVENT

Of course, it's the Christmas Count and you are reminded that there is still time to sign up to participate in either (or both) of GGAS' counts. In addition (see page 182) there are counts that every year attract GGAS members to help.

San Francisco

Call Dan Murphy at 564-0074 to join a team or get an assignment for Thursday, Dec. 27 in San Francisco.

Oakland

The 1990 Oakland Christmas Count is Sunday, Dec. 16. Everyone who participated last year should receive an invitation to join us again this year. If you did not participate last year, and want to help, please call Barbara Rivenes at the GGAS office or call one of the compilers, Lina Prairie (549-7210) or David Rice (527-7210).

Christmas Counts provide useful information on winter bird populations and are also fun. Whatever your level of birding ability, come join us. The Countdown Dinner will again be held at the Kensington Community Center (the refurbished Youth Hut) at 59 Arlington Avenue.

PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY PROPOSAL

The leadership of the eight Bay Area chapters of National Audubon meet monthly to discuss matters of chapter and regional interest. A proposed policy statement on public access and wetlands has grown out of problems which members have identified as development and urbanization encroach on the last of our wetlands. It is not in final form, but is printed here to invite discussion and suggestions. This material was considered at the Bay Area Council's meeting Oct. 19, 1990. Further discussion will be scheduled at future council meetings. The text, in its present form is:

the Bay Area Audubon Council recommends that:

1. Whereas the Bay area has lost over 90% of its historic tidal wetlands, and
2. Whereas, this loss has resulted in the wildlife use of the remaining wetlands reaching a level of saturation such that any further wetland habitat loss must result in direct loss of wildlife, and
3. Whereas, the remaining San Francisco Bay wetlands provide essential habitat to hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and over a million shorebirds each year, and

(continued on page 179)

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, December 1—Monterey Bay and Coastal Areas.

Saturday, December 8—U.C. Raptor Rehabilitation Center.

Wednesday, December 12—Mini-trip to Lake Merritt.

For details on the above, see *The Gull* for November.

Wednesday, January 9—Mini-trip to Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the marsh. Take Hwy. 880 (Nimitz) to the Hegenberger exit. Drive west to Doolittle and turn right. Go a short distance and turn right onto Swan. Turn left after about a block and follow the signs to the marsh. Park in the second parking lot on the left. We will look for burrowing owls and waterfowl. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Saturday, January 12—Lodi, Woodbridge Rd., and Staten Island. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Rocky's Restaurant at the intersection of I-5 and State Hwy. 12. From the Bay Area take 580 and continue east beyond Tracy to I-5, go north about 14 miles beyond Stockton to the intersection of Hwy. 12 (an alternate route would be to take Hwy. 12 out of Fairfield and Rio Vista to I-5). We will caravan to Lodi Sewage Ponds for rare shore birds, then to Woodbridge Rd. for cranes and to Staten Island for waterfowl. Dress warmly and be prepared for rain. Bring lunch. Leader: David Yee (209) 951-1526. (✓)

Saturday, January 12—Dillon Beach. Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the

Larkspur Ferry Terminal, section H (just east of the Sir Francis Drake off-ramp from Hwy. 101). We will leave there promptly at 8 a.m. for the town of Tomales, where we will meet the people from west Marin at 9 a.m. by the old Bank of America building on Hwy. 1. From there we will continue to caravan to Lawson's Landing (entrance fee).

We may see three species of Loons, Red-necked Grebes, White Pelicans, Brants, Snowy Plovers, and Golden Plovers. Bring lunch, warm clothes, raingear, and a scope if you have one. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (\$) (✓)

Plan Ahead:

Saturday, January 19—Carrizo Plain. Leader: Eben McMillan (this trip is tentative, subject to drought relief.)

Saturday, January 19—Panoche Valley. Leader: Chris Carpenter. (tentative)

Sunday, January 20—Los Banos Wildlife Refuge. Leader: Peter and Dolores White.

Sunday, January 20—Grizzly and Joice Islands Wildlife Area. Leader: Peter Allen.

For details on above trips see January issue of *The GULL*.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (524-2399)

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

WHAT YOU MISSED

The GGAS field trip Oct. 10, 1990 to the Emeryville Crescent and surrounding area had beautiful weather and an outgoing tide. Nineteen participants and two leaders saw forty-seven species:

Pied-billed Grebe	2
Western Grebe	20
Clark's Grebe	5
Double-crested Cormorant	15
Great Blue Heron	3
Great Egret	1
Surf Scoter	17
Black-shouldered Kite	1
Northern Harrier	1
American Kestrel	1
Black-bellied Plover	21
Semipalmated Plover	11
Killdeer	10
Black-necked Stilt	7
American Avocet	12
Greater Yellowlegs	1
Willet	21
Spotted Sandpiper	1
Whimbrel	5
Long-billed Curlew	9
Marbled Godwit	17
Ruddy Turnstone	7
Black Turnstone	1
Sanderling	4
Western Sandpiper	35
Least Sandpiper	11
Dunlin	11
Dowitcher species	21
Ring-billed Gull	25
California Gull	15
Glaucous-winged Gull	1
Forster's Tern	2
Rock Dove	5
Mourning Dove	5
Anna's Hummingbird	1
Belted Kingfisher	1
Northern Flicker	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Loggerhead Shrike	1
Starling	1
Hutton's Vireo	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7
Song Sparrow	2
White-crowned Sparrow	7
Red-winged Blackbird (many)	
House Finch	30

Anna Wilcox and Jean-Marie Spoelman were leaders for the trip.

TOM WHITE RESIGNS

At its October meeting the chapter board of directors reluctantly received the resignation of past president Tom White. Tom writes that he is not able to devote the time necessary to continue as a director, but assures us of his continuing support.

OCTOBER OBSERVATIONS

The word from the Farallons is that October was a miserable month for landbirding. Clear skies and northwest winds relieved only by pea-soup fog made it a distressing time for observers hoping for waves of wonderful birds, a not uncommon occurrence during October of most years. This year's conditions nearly duplicated those of 1978, when the landbird sightings were so disappointing that the year has lived in infamy since. It should be understood that while Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory biologists working on the Farallons are there doing research primarily on resident birds and mammals, they do not limit their observations to these species; spring and fall migration times are eagerly awaited for the enticing possibilities of what might arrive: irregular eastern warblers occur quite regularly; likewise unusual sparrows; and Asian vagrants happen often enough to make one giddy with anticipation. For instance, the Brown Shrike at Whitehouse Pool in 1987 brought birders (and the media) scurrying from all over the country, but one had already turned up on SE Farallon two years before. Sharp-eyed and knowledgeable observers, coupled with a limited landmass, topography that concentrates the landbirds, and the use of mist-nets insure that everything that lands will be seen and identified. This is outer Pt. Reyes compressed and ever-vigilant. It's interesting to note that because these are islands and birds differ greatly in their migratory habits, there are some

glitches—what we think of as regular, sometimes common, birds may be low-shows on the Farallons while our rarer species may merit scarcely a shrug on the island. Two Blue-wing Teal on Oct. 5 were only the 5th and 6th island records, a Black-shouldered Kite on the 24th only the 11th record, while ten Palm Warblers were low for the period.

Meanwhile, there was some excitement on the high seas. The New Sea Angler sped forth from Bodega Bay into the fog on October 28th loaded with birders and 4½ hours later turned up a plum over Cordell Bank—**Townsend's Shearwater**, a small, black and white, rapid-wing-beating shearwater closely related to Black-vented and Manx, with white flank patches that extend on the rump like a Violet-green Swallow. It breeds on the Revillagigedo Islands off Mexico but has never been documented off California, making it a North American first. The bird was well-seen, but not photographed which means it will have an especially rough time before the Calif. Bird Records Committee, the ultimate arbiter of these things (RS, SFB, WEH, AD). Otherwise, reports of seabirds seem par for the period, with a couple of bright spots: **Laysan Albatross**, along with one to two Flesh-footed Shearwaters on a Cordell Bank pelagic on the 20th (BDP, DN); and good storm petrels in Monterey Bay—up to four Wilson's thru the 6th (PJM, SFB fide RSTh) and two Forktailed and up to one hundred **Least Storm-petrels** on the 6th (SFB fide RSTh), a sign of warm water. Two Long-tailed Jaegers and five Xantus Murrelets were spotted on a Monterey pelagic on the 5th (PJM) and one to two South Polar Skuas were showing up on Monterey trips in the early part of the month (PJM, JSC).

On the 23rd, a **Wood Stork** appeared on Twitchell Island in the Delta (fide TCo, DGY, mob); regular at the Salton

Sea, it is quite rare in Northern California. It perched early and late and seemingly flew south to feed in the middle of the day. An agreeable and not terribly spooky bird, it remained until the 27th, the first day of duck-hunting season ironically, when it was frightened off its perch never to return by an obnoxiously persistent photographer who, replete with a battery of long lenses, was not content with great shots in perfect light, but appeared to be striving for microscopic detail of every barbule. Harrassing of birds by photographers is a serious problem in some parts of the country, but up until now hasn't appeared to be so in the Bay Area. A second Wood Stork turned up in Santa Rosa on the 31st (BeR, DN).

Another replay of note: a male **Gargany** has returned to the Bolinas Sewer Ponds as of the 10th (RS, KH, mob), this one in total eclipse plumage without even a hint of the white eyebrow that graced last spring's bird when it arrived. It's tempting to identify this as the same individual, but there's no way to be certain. A single Oldsquaw, a holdover from last winter, remains at Princeton Harbor (SMo).

In the sandpiper line, things have slowed to a late-fall normal: the **Bar-tailed Godwit** remained at MacKerricher State Park until the 6th (STe, MJL); Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were seen at Hayward Shoreline on the 8th, along with a Stilt Sandpiper (RJR); Moonglow Dairy on the 12th (DEG fide DR); and Lake Lucerne on the 16th (JMS, AWi); additional Stilt Sandpiper individuals were at the Binford Rd. marshes in Navato on the 15th and 16th—up to three Ruffs were seen there from the 12th to the 21st (RS, mob)—and at Palo Alto on the 25th (MRo). Those same Binford Rd. marshes had an Arctic Tern thru the 10th (RS, mob) and a Common Tern on the 6th (KSe), both unusual inland birds.

The fall count on Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands has again produced impressive numbers of raptors. The total thru the 26th is 11,272, broken-down as follows (GGRA):

Turkey Vulture	2150
Osprey	60
Black-shouldered Kite	18
Golden Eagle	17
Undocumented Eagle.....	1
Northern Harrier	255
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2724
Cooper's Hawk.....	1528
Undocumented Accipiter	616
Red-shouldered Hawk	136
Broadwinged Hawk	155
Swainson's Hawk	8
Redtailed Hawk	2921
Ferruginous Hawk	15
Undocumented Buteo	70
Kestrel	373
Merlin	101
Peregrine	18
Prairie Falcon	10
Undocumented Falcon	24
Undocumented Raptor	72

The previous seasonal record for Broadwinged Hawks was 107, making this a notable year (CLF).

A White-winged Dove was at Wilder Ranch in Santa Cruz on the 7th (EF) and two Common Ground-doves were at the mouth of the Big Sur River on the 13th (RFT fide DR). A female Black-chinned Hummingbird showed up at Tomales Bay State Park on the 11th (DDeS). A Lewis' Woodpecker, not generally a coastal bird, appeared at the Pt. Reyes Visitors' Center on the 26th and was still there on the 30th (GB, KSe, JM, JMR). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported from Mono Lake on the 13th (FRT); SE Farallon on the 18th (the first island record) (PRBO); Pine Gulch Creek on the 20th (RSt); and Inverness on the 29th (LL). There were Tropical Kingbirds around in good numbers throughout the month. On the 23rd, two Pinyon Jays flew over Hawk Hill (SGI). And, praises be, the Bendire's Thrasher is still wintering at 333 Jahant Rd. in Lodi (DGY, CaL, JM). A Philadelphia Vireo was reported

from the Carmel River on the 6th (fide RSTh). Red-eyed Vireos continued to be found in small numbers: Bodega Bay on the 1st and 2nd (DN, MLR); Pine Gulch Creek on the 6th and 7th (KH); and Albany on the 8th (THK).

WARBLERS—one last chart for the fall should gather in the strays:

TENNESSEE WARBLER			
Lincoln Park	10/5	1	ASH
Pt. Reyes	10/7-8	1	RS, SMo
Coyote Creek	10/9	1	MDa fide JMS
GG Park	10/15	1	RKo
Pine Gulch Creek	10/23-24	1	THK, KS

NASHVILLE WARBLER			
Bolinas	10/9	1	KH
Pine Gulch Creek	10/14, 23-24	1,1	AD, JaW, SPa THK, KH
GG Park	10/15	1	RKo

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER			
Bodega	10/1-3	1	DN, MLR, RKo

NORTHERN PARULA			
Olema Marsh	10/3	1	RS

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER			
Moss Beach	9/30-10/2	1	fide RSTh, AME
Carmel River	10/1,6	1,1	MiF, fide RSTh, WEH

Bolinas	10/9	1	KH
Pescadero	10/17	1	RSTh
Pine Gulch Creek	10/20	1	RSt
Wilder Ranch, SCz	10/30	1	RMrr

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER			
Nunes Ranch	10/6	1	RS fide ASH

MAGNOLIA WARBLER			
SE Farallon	10/1	1	PRBO
Bodega Bay	10/2	1	DN, MLR
Monterey Pelagic	10/5	1	PJM
Pine Gulch Creek	10/22-23	1	KH, THK

PRAIRIE WARBLER			
Lincoln Park	9/30-10/1	1	DSg, CAL
Bolinas Lagoon	10/22-30	1	SMo, mob

BLACKPOLL WARBLER			
Lincoln Park	10/1	1	ASH
Pt. Reyes	10/3	1	AWa
Bodega Bay	10/5	1	DN
NONE ON SE FARALLON			PRBO

PALM WARBLER			
36 individuals			

AMERICAN REDSTART			
SE Farallon	10/5	1	PRBO
GG Park	10/15-28	1	RKo, JM, SMo

OVENBIRD			
Coyote Creek	10/11	1	MDa fide JMS

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

Bodega Bay	10/5-30	1	DN, RS, MLR
Carmel River	10/6	1	fide RSTh, WEH

KENTUCKY WARBLER

SE Farallon	10/1-3	1	PRBO
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SE Farallon, despite the complaints, pulled in a Summer Tanager on the 23rd; a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on the 10th-11th; and an Indigo Bunting on the 5th (PRBO). Additional Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at Pine Gulch Creek and Inverness (KH, RMS, THK).

An American Tree Sparrow came to feed in a yard in Pt. Reyes Station from the 12th-14th (RS); a second one was seen at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse on the 18th (DWm). Clay-colored Sparrows were seen in good numbers (19) during the month, as were White-throated Sparrows which bordered on abundant for a reasonably hard-to-find species (38). A Brewer's Sparrow at Half Moon Bay on the 28th (RSTh); a Vesper Sparrow at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse on the 8th (SMo); and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Pine Gulch Creek on the 23rd (THK) round out the sparrow list. Up to eight Chestnut-collared Longspurs and five Lapland Longspurs were seen on outer Pt. Reyes (RSW, JM, mob). One to two Laps were at Pigeon Pt. on the 5th and 6th (RSTh, MFe). Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks were both reported in moderate to good numbers.

OBSERVERS: Stephen F. Bailey, Terry Colborn, J. Scott Cox, Maryann Danielson, David DeSante, Ann Dewart, Alan M. Eisner, Carter L. Faust, Mike Feighner (MiF), Marc Fenner (MFe), Eric Feuss, Douglass E. George, Steve Glover, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, Keith Hansen, W. Edward Harper, Elina Holst, Alan S. Hopkins, Theodore H. Koundakjian, Richard Kovak, Michael J. Lippsmeyer, Calvin Lou, many observers (mob), Robert V. Merrill, Peter J.

Metropulos, Joe Morlan, Scott Morrical, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Susan Patla, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO), Bertha Rains, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Don Roberson, Mike Rogers, Mary Louise Rosegay, Kevin Sea, Dan Singer, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup (RS), Robert M. Stewart (RMS), Ron Storey (RSt), Scott Terrill, Ron S. Thorn, Robert F. Tintle, Frances Toldi, Adrian Wander (AWa), Janet Wessel, Ana Wilcox (AWi), David Wimpfheimer, David G. Yee

—ANN DEWART

California Rare Bird Alerts

Arcata	(707) 826-7031
Sacramento	(916) 481-0188
Monterey Bay	(408) 375-9122 (408) 375-2577 update
Los Angeles	(213) 874-1318
Santa Barbara	(805) 964-8240
San Bernadino	(714) 793-5599
San Diego	(619) 435-6761 (619) 479-3400 daily update
Morro Bay	(805) 528-7182
South Sierra	(209) 782-1237
SF and N. CA	(415) 528-0288 (415) 524-5592 update

ACCESS POLICY...

(continued from page 173)

4. Whereas, research has shown that public access by trails and boardwalks into wetland habitat produces significant detrimental impacts to these wildlife species,

5 Whereas, research has shown that where there is significant public access to a wetland habitat there may be up to 50% reduction in wildlife (waterfowl and shorebird) usage of said wetland.

6. Whereas, research has shown that certain duck species experience a 50% reduction in foraging time when disturbed by human intrusion into their habitat.

7. Whereas, there are substantial numbers of wetlands already accessible by trail and/or boardwalk in many parts of the Bay,

8. Whereas, initial research suggests that wildlife disturbance will occur when human intrusion takes place within 175 feet of a wetland in the absence of physical buffers.

Therefore, when considering public access to wetlands, no new boardwalks over or trails through wetland habitats should be constructed. If public access to wetlands is to be increased, it should be through point access only, i.e. the creation of upland trails to overlook nodes or viewing areas.

Therefore, in those parts of the Bay Area with adequate existing public access to wetlands, those wetlands not yet impacted should remain free of public access.

Therefore, all trails paralleling wetlands should have a buffer area of at least 175 feet between the wetland and the trails. If this is not feasible, vegetative screening or other physical buffer should line the trail to prevent wildlife disturbance,

Therefore, all new interpretive centers should be set back at least 175 feet from adjacent wetlands,

Therefore, if some region of the Bay is deficient in wetlands public access and/or interpretive facilities, the creation of such facilities and the creation of new trails should comply with the above policies.

* * * * *

Comments and suggestions should be addressed to the chairman of the Conservation Committee, Arthur Feinstein, at the GGAS office.



BANDED BALD EAGLES

The Ventana Wilderness Sanctuary has been responsible for a program to re-establish the Bald Eagle in central California. The last recorded breeding in California was 1934. In the period of the last five years 37 eaglets have been released in the Wilderness Area above Big Sur. One pair is reported to be established at a local reservoir.

The non-profit VWS, dedicated to wildlife rehabilitation and to breeding endangered species, has banded (Fish and Wildlife bands and colored bands) and equipped released birds with transmitters. The color tag (black with white lettering) is on the right leg. Reading the number (above) and letter (below) will be difficult except with a scope and

ideal conditions. Being able to read the identification would be best, but a report of sighting of a banded bird would be very helpful in their study of Bald Eagle distribution and survival. Include the location and date of sighting and send it to Craig Hohenberger, VWS, P.O. Box 894, Carmel Valley, CA 93924. Phone (408) 626-8348.

BACK YARD BIRDER

Once you've honed your birdwatching skills, those basic skills which involve familiarity with field identification marks, bird songs and habitats, you will begin unconsciously to notice and use other clues to find your birds. Previously unnoticed bird sound and bird behavior begin to pique your curiosity. Lately, several such instances have led me to interesting observations.

On a hot summer's day I spotted a very large rattlesnake coiled in the shade of a tree near my front porch. Nearby was my cat, back arched and fur standing on end. By circling beyond the snake's striking distance I grabbed the cat before he decided to be daring. After securing the cat in the house, I returned to keep an eye on the snake so I'd know his location. He'd made a quick exit as most shy snakes will do—but where? Then I heard a terrific racket in the oak trees up the hill. The Scrub and Stellar's Jays were definitely distressed, hopping in the lowest branches while setting up a huge commotion. I watched as they followed the snake's course, screaming continually until he found solace in tall grass. Meanwhile, every animal and bird in the area was surely alerted to danger by the jays' raucous calls. Once again the early alarm system worked.

One afternoon in Africa I was walking to my room when I noticed the sunbirds were making buzzing calls and

were mobbing a tiny, Pearl-spotted Owl. All he wanted was a nap in the shaded tree but the sunbirds were soon joined by weavers and other birds who dive-bombed the owl, screaming in his face. He sped to another tree and tried to disappear. Later I found him being mobbed once again, the sunbirds relentlessly pestering him. If it hadn't been for the noise I'd have missed the only owl I was to see in Africa.

Good guides, whether they are in Africa or elsewhere, are masters at reading animal behavior. Even we greenhorns could tell that when a whole herd of antelope was looking in one direction, there was probably a big cat on the hunt. Showing poor eyesight, or perhaps a morbid curiosity, the antelope would walk *toward* the cat just to make sure of what they were seeing. I suppose this is a way of conserving energy: don't flee unless necessary.

It was nearly dark when we spied part of an impala in the crook of a tree, a leopard's larder. We decided to quietly await his return to feed. As we waited a large flock of 80 or more guinea fowl were scuffling toward us, looking like grey and white speckled volleyballs on stilts. They constantly clucked to one another as they pecked at seeds and insects. Suddenly they whirled into the air as one body, screaming with alarm. AHA! Here came the leopard, slinking through the scrub brush. The guinea fowl had alerted us as well as a flock of doves which had been dusting in the road.

Whenever you hear jays or any other birds disturbing your peace and quiet, instead of becoming irritated at the commotion, you might find it interesting to discover what's bothering them. It won't be a leopard but it might be the neighbor's cat, maybe a snake, or one of our many owls.

—MEG PAULETICH

ADULT CLASSES
IN WALNUT CREEK

The Lindsay Museum, 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek, (935-1983) announces two special classes:

WILDLIFE CARE AND
REHABILITATION

Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Make a difference. Become a volunteer. Help with raising and rehabilitation of orphaned and injured wildlife. This class is for birds and small mammals most frequently encountered in Contra Costa County. Completion of the class makes you eligible for direct, hands-on experience with a nationally known wildlife rehabilitation program. Fee \$25 plus Museum membership. Bring a bag lunch and meet at the museum.

TREATMENT OF OILED BIRDS
Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7-9 p.m.

Prepare for the unpredictable. Immediate, around the clock action of well trained volunteers is required after an oil spill. Using highly successful treatment techniques developed at the Lindsay Museum, learn how to remove the deadly, sticky oil from birds. Sign up now, before the emergency occurs. Prerequisite: Wildlife Care and Rehabilitation. Meet at the Museum. Fee, \$10.

PRBO RECEPTION

You are invited (but please RSVP) to a reception and booksigning celebrating the publication of Ocean Birds of the Nearshore Pacific by Rich Stallcup. The

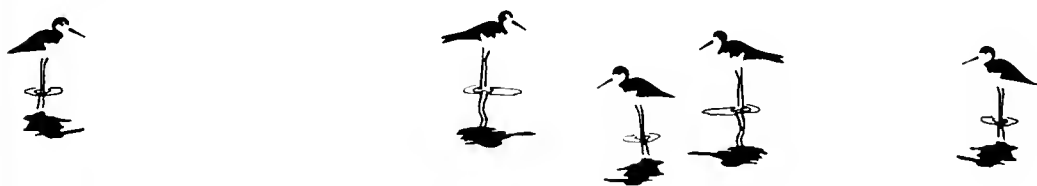
occasion is to thank the author, editors, designer, photographers, scientists who reviewed the text, key supporters and staff. It is scheduled 2-6 p.m. Sunday Dec. 2, 1990 at Volunteer Canyon of Audubon Canyon Ranch, Stinson Beach.

There will be a high winter tide in the morning. Guests might want to take advantage of these good birdwatching conditions prior to the reception. If you can attend drop a post card to Rich Stallcup, PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

CLASSES AT SFBBO

The 1991 classes have been announced by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. The classes are available to the general public at the prices listed. Members are given a discount of \$15. Please call SFBBO at (408) 946-6448 to reserve a place or for more information.

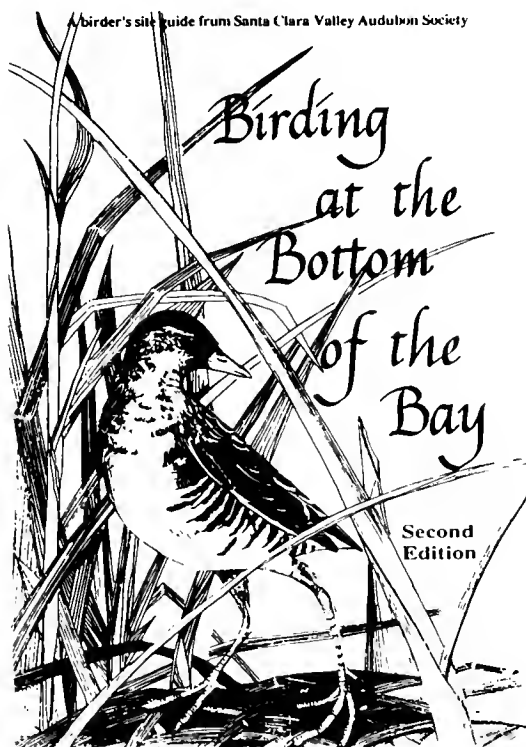
- Gull Identification
 - Jan. 16-Feb. 20\$50
- Owl Biology
 - Feb. 27-Mar. 13\$50
- Taxidermy
 - Apr. 4-Apr. 20\$105
- Sparrow Identification
 - May 9-30\$50
- Flycatcher Identification
 - May 22-June 5\$50
- Shorebird Identification
 - Aug. 14-Sept. 4\$65
- Duck Identification
 - Nov. 6-Nov. 13\$45



A NEW EDITION

Birding at the Bottom of the Bay

A second edition, new and improved, of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's cooperatively written and illustrated guide to birding sites in Santa Clara County at the south end of San Francisco Bay, has been published. Because of the many changes, new parks, new trails, new roads, old roads closed, bird populations have changed. A new edition was needed. The price is \$10 (add \$2.50 for postage and handling, if by mail) from SCVAS, 415 Cambridge Ave., Suite 21, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Or stop by the GGAS Office for a copy.



JANUARY BIRD SEED SALE

Watch for *The GULL* for January which will include an order form and full information about GGAS' next Bird Seed Sale.

HABITAT RESTORATION

The December plans of the GGNRA are as follows:

Dec. 2 Tennessee Valley: A trail repair day to control erosion along a scenic loop trail.

Dec. 9 Stinson Beach: A day to finish removal of French Broom from a bluff-top site overlooking the Pacific.

Dec. 15 & 16 Muir Woods: A week-end work party to continue planting native plants around the handsome new visitor center. There are a variety of things to do.

Dec. 30 Tennessee Valley: Up to a lovely high meadow along Chaparral Trail for an easy but necessary search for South African Capeweed. A special place.

Meet at 9:30 each scheduled day (**call for directions:** 556-0693 during office hours). Bring sturdy clothes, work gloves, lunch and something refreshing to drink.

BRAVO AND THANKS CU!

The November issue of Consumer Reports published by Consumer's Union includes a "Best Buy Gifts" section which prominently recommends "Think green" and being "mindful of the planet". It recommends charitable gifts, and six environmental organizations are listed, and the National Audubon Society is first on the list.

Gift memberships might be a good way to introduce friends to Audubon activities, come to think of it.

OTHER CHRISTMAS COUNTS:

Saturday, Dec. 15, **PRBO Annual Christmas Count**, Point Reyes, David Wimpfheimer, Compiler, 868-1221.

Saturday, Dec. 29, **South Marin Count**, Dianne Sierra, Compiler, 654-8124.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

The Ranch store is open to the public Tuesdays through Fridays from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Take a winter drive through west Marin, check out the birds on Bolinas Lagoon and stop in at ACR for that very special holiday gift.

COASTAL PRAIRIE RESTORATION DAY

Our final fall seminar this year is a marvelous opportunity to volunteer your help in restoring native grasses at our Cypress Grove Preserve. Join ACR biologist John Kelly on Saturday, December 8 in this year-end gift to renew the environment of our beautiful preserve on Tomales Bay. Register for this free event by calling the ACR at (415) 868-9244.

WALKS AT BOUVERIE PRESERVE

Celebrate the holiday season with a walk through the pristine Bouverie Audubon Preserve on December 15 or January 19. These half day, docent led walks through the grasslands and woods of the Sonoma foothills will certainly renew you for the coming year. Register with the Bouverie Docent Council at (707) 938-4554.

RANCH RESEARCH

The first year of our North Bay Counties Heron/Egret Project located about 40 colonies in Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Solano counties. Our observers discovered previously unreported colonies, recorded habitat information, monitored nesting success, and glimpsed predator and human disturbances. During the coming years we hope to add depth to our knowledge of north bay heronries, monitor impacts to these very important wading birds and act to protect critical habitats. Next year the project will expand into Contra Costa County. Join other birder volunteers during 1991 to be part of this very important research project. For complete details call John Kelly at (415) 663-8203.

We at ACR wish each of you a very Happy Holiday Season. We thank you for your support of our education, research, volunteer and preservation efforts and we look forward to sharing nature with you in the coming year.

—DAN MURPHY

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS LIBRARY
In Memory of
Christine Jones

Gift of

Irene Donna Brown

FOR GGAS

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Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
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Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
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The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.